

ty praying that they may have some portion of the gunboats sent to them, & a battery erected for at the point of the Inlet for the protection of that town and harbour—The laws on the Subject of Gunboats & fortifications having already passed through Congress, and the money appropriated to these objects being placed at the disposal of your Excellency I have deemed it unnecessary to lay the inclosed before Congress—

In addition to what is stated by the memo (2) rialists I will just remark that in the event of a war, the port of Beaufort immediately becomes of immencely greater importance to the Commerce of North Carolina than it has heretofore been in peace owing to the fineness of its inlet & harbor when compared with Ocracock. During the Revolutionary war all vessels of heavy burthens as well as others which fill to the Southward of Cape Lookout ran into Beaufort rather than run the risque of being taken while lig[h]tering at Ocracock or weathering Cape Look Out, & from Beaufort sent their Cargoes in lighters to such ports on the waters discharging at Ocracock or they saw proper. And should a canal be completed which is begun for the purpose of connecting the waters of Neuse river below Newbern with the waters discharging through Beaufort Harbour at Old Topsail Inlet, as it easily may be and no doubt will be, it will render Beaufort a very important port in peace as well as war. If nothing is done towards the protection of this place, a privateer or trader well manned may at pleasure lay (3) it under Contribution, & from the country around it abounding in Cattle sheep & Hogs they must be invited frequently to visit it for supplies of fresh provisions for their blockading squadron if for no other purpose—

With the highest respect I have the honor to be

Your Excellency's
very Obd^t Serv^t
W^m Blackledge

John Gray Blount to William Buck

WASHINGTON Feby 10th 1808

Cap^t William Buck

Herewith you have the following notes which have been long due but as I hope the men who owe them have become rich in Georgia they will not now hesitate to pay me should you receive the whole or any part please write me and send an Order for me to receive as much of your